

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the examination of the present application that is evidenced by the Official Action of April 6, 2007 and the indication that Claims 4-5, 9-11, 13 and 23-24 recite allowable subject matter. In response to the Official Action, Applicants have amended Claims 4-5, 9-11, 13 and 23-24 to place these claims in condition for allowance and have added new Claims 31-33. The title of the application has also been amended, and Claims 1-3, 6-8, 12, 14-22 and 25-30 have been canceled. Thus, the sole outstanding issue is the patentability of new Claims 31-33.

Claims 31-33 Are Patentable Over the Cited Prior Art

Applicants acknowledge that U.S. Patent No. 5,754,753 to Smelser discloses a memory system with multiple bit error correction. This error correction feature supports the ability of the memory system to use memory arrays having defective memory cells within the addressable write/read space of the memory system. Nonetheless, Applicants submit that Smelser does not disclose or suggest the subject matter of Claims 31-33. For example, nowhere does Smelser disclose or suggest a control circuit that not only tests a memory array to identify defect-free sections from other sections having defects, but also selectively uses ECC coding so that ECC encoding is omitted from those sections that are defect free.

Smelser also does not disclose or suggest the use of multiple different ECC encoding schemes at the same time or the use of ECC encoding based on fault probability (e.g., more rigorous ECC encoding algorithms for high defect sections and less rigorous ECC encoding algorithms for low defect sections).

Accordingly, because of these clear distinctions between the subject matter of Claims 31-33 and the disclosure of Smelser, Applicants respectfully submit that the newly added claims are in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,



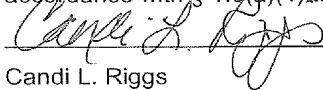
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